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# Project REACH Talent Search at UMass Boston

Academic Support Services and Undergraduate Studies, University of Massachusetts Boston

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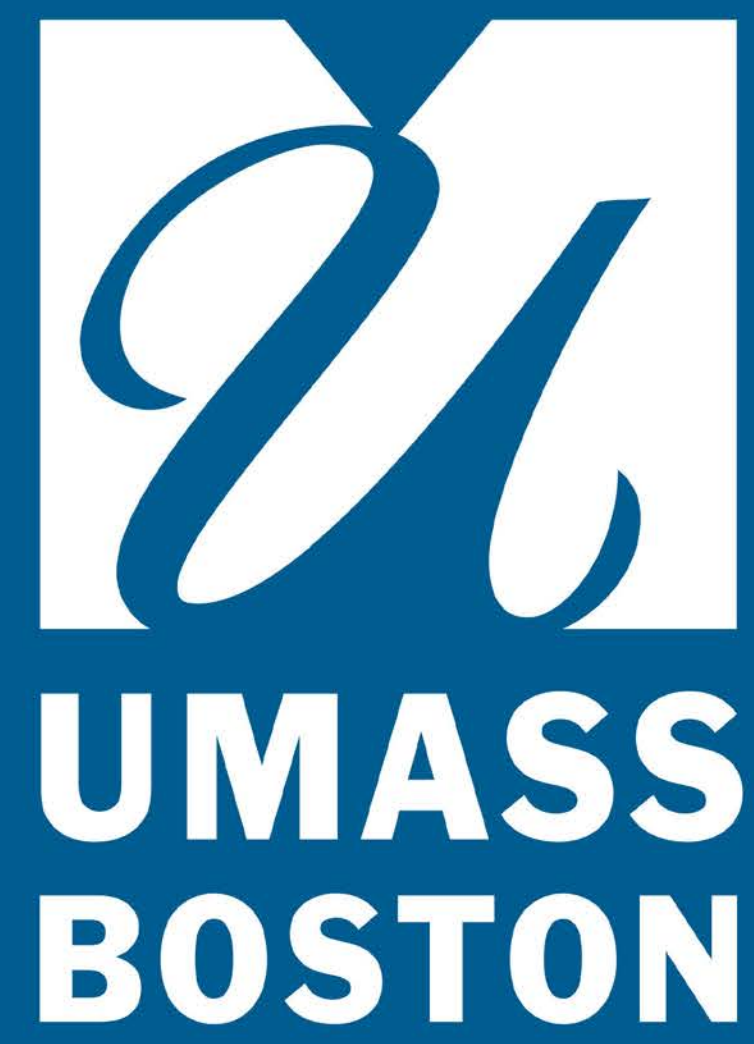
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# Project REACH Talent Search at UMass Boston

**Partners: University of Massachusetts Boston, Jeremiah E. Burke High School, Dorchester Academy, Madison Park High School, Dearborn School, and McCormack Middle School**

## Vision

Every student, whether low-income, first-generation, with a disability, or at high risk for academic failure, will develop the skills, knowledge, and motivation to successfully enroll in and complete postsecondary education.

## Mission

We identify disadvantaged middle and high school students in the Boston Public Schools (BPS) who have the potential for education at the post-secondary level, we support those students as they complete a rigorous high school program of study, and we encourage them to enroll in programs of post-secondary education.

## Contact Information

Project REACH is a federally funded program. To learn more about the program, email [projectreach@umb.edu](mailto:projectreach@umb.edu) or call 617.287.7390.

**2014 TRIO Day Conference**



## Goals and Objectives

- ❖ Prepare students academically and socially for enrollment in and completion of higher education
- ❖ Support participants in the completion of a rigorous high school program of study
- ❖ Encourage persons who have not completed programs of study at the secondary level to re-enter them
- ❖ Inform individuals with disabilities of the existing community resources.
- ❖ Support program participants in the enrollment in and completion of programs of post-secondary education

## Approaches and Methods

- ❖ Serves students in both general education and special education classes.
- ❖ Career and educational counseling
- ❖ Self-esteem building and self-advocacy skills
- ❖ College fairs and visits
- ❖ Help completing college applications and financial aid forms
- ❖ Disability awareness and counseling
- ❖ Tutoring (in school and after school)
- ❖ Information and referrals to community resources
- ❖ 5-week summer program combining academic coursework with project-based learning and community engagement activities

## Impact

- ❖ First Educational Talent Search Program in the nation to serve low-income, first generation, college-bound, urban youth with disabilities
- ❖ A national model for successful inclusion of youth with disabilities in TRIO programs
- ❖ Worked with thousands of Boston Public School students at its partner schools since 1985
- ❖ Helped many BPS graduates realize their dreams of going to college or pursuing postsecondary training

### In School Year 2012-2013:

- ❖ Served 825 students
- ❖ Over 150 visited a college campus or went to a college fair
- ❖ Over 90% of seniors graduated with a high school diploma

### 2013 Summer Program:

Theme was “Culture: Embracing Differences;” 28 students from our target schools took part

